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A CONGRESS, } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. } REPORT
at Session. } } No. 37.

SEIZURE OF THE GERMAN INTERNERD SHIPS.

MAY 1, 1917.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

U.S. Long House

Mr. ALEXANDER, from the Committee on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries, submitted the following

REPORT.

17-7042 | [To accompany H. J. Res. 62.]

The Committee on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries, to whom was referred the resolution (H. J. Res. 62) authorizing the President to take over for the United States the possession and title of vessels of any subject or citizen of any nation with which the United States may be at war, and for other purposes, having considered the resolution, report the same to the House with certain amendments, with the recommendation that it do pass.

Amend by striking out all the text after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

That the President be, and he is hereby, authorized to take over to the United States the immediate possession and title of any vessel within the jurisdiction thereof, including the Canal Zone and all territories and insular possessions of the United States except the American Virgin Islands, which at the time of coming into such jurisdiction was owned in whole or in part by any corporation, citizen, or subject of any nation with which the United States may be at war when such vessel shall be taken, or was flying the flag of or was under register of any such nation or any political subdivision or municipality thereof; and, through the United States Shipping Board, or any department or agency of the Government, to operate, lease, charter, and equip such vessel in any service of the United States, or in any commerce, foreign or coastwise.

SEC. 2. That the Secretary of the Navy be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to appoint, subject to the approval of the President, a board of survey, whose duty it shall be to ascertain the actual value of the vessel, its equipment, appurtenances, and all property contained therein, at the time of its taking, and to make a written report of their findings to the Secretary of the Navy, who shall preserve such report with the records of his department. These findings shall be considered as competent evidence in all proceedings on any claim for compensation.

Amend the title to read as follows:

Joint resolution authorizing the President to take over for the United States the immediate possession and title of any vessel within its jurisdiction, which at the time of coming therein was owned in whole or in part by any corporation, citizen, or subject of any nation with which the United States may be at war, or was under register of any such nation, and for other purposes.

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The purpose of this resolution as amended is to authorize the President to take over to the United States the possession and title of any vessel within the jurisdiction thereof, including the Canal Zone and the insular possessions of the United States, except the American Virgin Islands, which at the time of coming into such jurisdiction was owned in whole or in part by any corporation or citizen or subject of any nation with which the United States may be at war when such vessel shall be taken, or was flying the flag of or was under register of any such nation, or any political subdivision or municipality thereof.

The resolution further provides that such vessels may be operated, leased or chartered, and equipped in any service of the United States in any commerce, foreign or coastwise, through the United States Shipping Board, or any other department or agency of the Government.

The resolution further provides that the Secretary of the Navy shall appoint, with the approval of the President, a board of survey to ascertain the value of the vessels, their equipment, appurtenances, and property contained therein at the time of taking, and report their findings to the Secretary of the Navy; and that such findings shall be competent evidence in all proceedings on claims for compensation, etc.

This resolution is properly regarded an emergency measure, its purpose being to authorize the President at once to take over the possession and title of the German vessels interned in ports of the United States and our insular possessions at and since the beginning of the war in Europe.

At the time the vessels were interned in our ports our status was that of a neutral nation. We are now involved in the war with Germany, and under our treaties with Germany and the rules of international law have the right to take over these vessels in the manner proposed in this resolution.

The need is urgent that we should do so at once, in order that these vessels may be employed in our overseas commerce and especially to supply our allies with foodstuffs and munitions of war.

The report of the committee is unanimous and they indulge the hope that this resolution may be enacted into law without delay.

The following statement prepared by the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Navigation, shows German and Austrian vessels in the ports of the United States and its possessions:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
BUREAU OF NAVIGATION,
Washington, May 8, 1915.

GERMAN AND AUSTRIAN VESSELS IN PORTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

[Asterisk (*) designates Austrian vessels; all others are German.]

Name.	Gross tons.	Net tons.	Pas-sen-gers.	Crew.	Speed.	At—	Owner.
					Knots.		
Vaterland.....	54,282	23,548	2,264	923	24	New York, N.Y.	Hamburg-American.
George Washington.....	25,570	15,379	2,755	525	19	.....do.....	North German Lloyd.
Amerika.....	22,622	13,637	2,567	541	17½	Boston, Mass.	Hamburg-American.
Kronprinzessin Cecilie.....	19,503	6,584	1,576	650	23½do.....	North German Lloyd.
Kaiser Wilhelm II.....	19,361	6,353	1,593	655	23½	New York, N.Y.	Do.

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GERMAN AND AUSTRIAN VESSELS IN PORTS OF THE UNITED STATES—Continued.

Name.	Gross tons.	Net tons.	Pas-sengers.	Crew.	Speed.	At—	Owner.
President Lincoln.....	18,168	11,171	2,751	305	14½	New York, N. Y	Hamburg-American.
President Grant.....	18,072	11,112	3,303	292	14½	.....do.....	Do.
Cincinnati.....	16,339	9,733	2,449	370	15½	Boston, Mass....	Do.
Pennsylvania.....	13,333	8,527	2,671	222	13½	New York, N.Y.	Do.
Grosser Kurfurst.....	13,102	7,881	1,965	260	15½	.....do.....	North German Lloyd.
Bulgaria.....	11,440	7,218				Baltimore, Md.	Hamburg-American.
Barbarossa.....	10,984	6,463	1,838	215	14	New York, N.Y.	North German Lloyd.
Prinzess Irene.....	10,893	6,443	1,930	235	15½	.....do.....	Do.
Friedrich der Grosse.....	10,771	6,585	1,827	215	14½	.....do.....	Do.
Hamburg.....	10,531	6,420	1,352	232	16	.....do.....	Hamburg-American.
Rhein.....	10,058	6,398	2,080	155	13	Baltimore, Md.	North German Lloyd.
Neckar.....	9,635	6,200	1,920	170	14	.....do.....	Do.
König Wilhelm II.....	9,410	5,764		172	15½	New York, N.Y.	Hamburg-American.
Bohemia.....	8,414	5,248			13	.....do.....	Do.
*Martha Washington.....	8,312	5,379	1,101	250	17	.....do.....	Unione Austriaca.
Köln.....	7,409	4,666	656	105	12½	Boston, Mass....	North German Lloyd.
*Dora.....	7,037	4,536			13	New York, N.Y.	Unione Austriaca.
Rhaetia.....	6,600	4,141		81	12½	Philadelphia.	Hamburg-American.
*Erny.....	6,515	4,171			13	Boston, Mass....	Unione Austriaca.
Prinz Oskar.....	6,026	3,777	1,045	104	13	Philadelphia.	Hamburg-American.
Wittiekind.....	5,640	3,607	1,265	90	12	Boston, Mass....	North German Lloyd.
Ockenfels.....	5,621	3,452		69		.....do.....	Hansa.
Armenia.....	5,464	3,386	978	44		New York, N.Y.	Hamburg-American.
Arcadia.....	5,454	3,412		44		Norfolk, Va....	North German Lloyd.
Adamsturm.....	5,000	3,159		66		New York, N.Y.	Do.
Pisa.....	4,967	3,148	1,148	42	12	.....do.....	Hansa.
*Himalaia.....	4,948	3,152				.....do.....	Hamburg-American.
*Morawitz.....	4,795	3,106				Galveston, Tex.	D. Tripovich S. S. Co.
Willehad.....	4,761	3,012	1,071	91	12	Boston, Mass....	Atlantica Sea Nav. Co.
Prinz Joachim.....	4,760	2,981		96	13	New York, N.Y.	North German Lloyd.
Serapis.....	4,756	3,068		43		San Francisco.	Hamburg-American.
*Ida.....	4,730	3,093			12	New York, N.Y.	Kosmos Line.
Prinz Eitel Friedrich.....	4,650	2,921		62	12	Philadelphia.	Unione Austriaca.
*Franconia.....	4,637	3,019				.....do.....	Hamburg-American.
Allemannia.....	4,630	2,915		82	13	New York, N.Y.	D. Tripovich S. S. Co.
Harburg.....	4,472	2,837				.....do.....	Atlantica Sea Nav. Co.
Saxonia.....	4,424	2,782		48		Seattle, Wash.	Hamburg-American.
*Clare.....	3,932	2,541				New Orleans, La.	Deutsche-Australische.
Nassovia.....	3,902	2,175		41		New York, N.Y.	Hamburg-American.
*Teresa.....	3,769	2,381				New Orleans, La.	Unione Austriaca.
*Budapest.....	3,651	2,321				Norfolk, Va....	Atlantica Sea Nav. Co.
*Campania.....	3,551	2,267				Galveston, Tex.	D. Tripovich S. S. Co.
Hohenfelde.....	2,974	1,887		37		Savannah, Ga...	Kissle & Gunther MFLG.
Portonia.....	2,778	1,744		28		New York, N.Y.	Dampschiffs Reed Horn Atk.
Maia.....	2,555	1,635		20		.....do.....	Holm and Molzen.
Clara Mennig.....	1,685	1,005				.....do.....	Otto Zelch.
*Anna.....	1,575	989				New Orleans, La.	Unione Austriaca.
Neptun.....	197	131				San Francisco.	Joilet.
Pommern.....	6,557	4,086			12½	Honolulu.	North German Lloyd.
C. J. D. Ahlers.....	7,490	4,737				Hilo.	Hansa.
Prinz Waldemar.....	3,227	1,737			12	Honolulu.	North German Lloyd.
Setos.....	4,730	3,084				.....do.....	Kosmos.
Holsatia.....	5,649	3,533				.....do.....	Hamburg-American.
Locksun.....	1,657	1,020				.....do.....	North German Lloyd.
Loong Moon.....	1,971	1,245				.....do.....	Hamburg-American.
Staatssekretär Kraetke.....	2,009	1,208			12	.....do.....	Do.
Ge:ieur Jaeschke.....	1,738	1,045				.....do.....	Do.
*Lucia.....	6,744	4,386			13	Pensacola.	Unione Austriaca.
Rudolph Blumberg.....	1,769	1,077				.....do.....	Leonhardt & Blumberg.
Vogesen.....	3,716	2,357				.....do.....	H. Vogemann.
Frieda Leonhardt.....	2,822	1,818				Jacksonville.	Leonhardt & Blumberg.
*Borneo.....	3,621	2,337				Tampa, Fla.	Soc. Anom. Ungherese di Armanento Maritt. Orient.
Odenwald.....	3,537	2,098				San Juan, P. R.	Hamburg - American Line.
69 vessels.....	530,835	308,503	42,135	7,685			
Kronprinz Wilhelm.....	14,908	5,162		535	23	Norfolk, Va....	North German Lloyd.
Prinz Eitel Friedrich.....	8,797	4,812		388	15	.....do.....	Do.

SEIZURE OF THE GERMAN INTERNERD SHIPS.

GERMAN VESSELS IN PORTS OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Name.	Gross tons.	Net tons.	Crew.	Speed.	At—	Owner.
<i>Knots.</i>						
Borneo.....	2,168	1,344	47	.....	Zamboaga.....	North German Lloyd.
Darvel.....	1,308	899	53	.....	do.....	Do.
Marudu.....	1,514	902	49	.....	do.....	Do.
Princess Alice.....	10,981	6,629	235	15)	Cebu.....	Do.
Tsintau.....	1,685	1,002	42	.....	do.....	North German Lloyd (Ak. Ges.).
Wiegand.....	499	292	25	.....	do.....	Deutsche Sudseephosphat.
Andalusia.....	5,433	3,371	50	.....	Manila.....	Hamburg-American Line.
Bochum.....	6,161	3,837	.....	.....	do.....	Deutsch Austral. Dmpfesch.
Camilla Riekmers.....	5,130	3,463	.....	.....	do.....	Rickmers Reismuhlen Reed.
Carl Diederichsen.....	1,243	774	25	.....	do.....	M. Jebsen.
Clara Jebsen.....	1,735	1,103	27	.....	do.....	Do.
Coblenz.....	3,130	1,869	53	.....	do.....	North German Lloyd.
Elmshorn.....	4,594	2,871	41	.....	do.....	Deutsch Austral. Dmpfesch.
Esslingen.....	4,902	3,067	42	.....	do.....	Do.
Johanne.....	1,531	952	27	.....	do.....	M. Jebsen.
Lyneenoon.....	1,925	1,238	37	.....	do.....	Hamburg-American Line.
Mark.....	6,579	4,091	.....	12½	do.....	North German Lloyd.
Pongtong.....	1,631	997	42	.....	do.....	Do.
Rajah.....	2,028	1,273	41	.....	do.....	Do.
Sachsen.....	8,007	5,088	60	12	do.....	Hamburg-American Line.
Sambia.....	4,763	3,011	48	.....	do.....	Do.
Suevia.....	3,789	2,381	44	.....	do.....	Do.
Tubingen.....	5,586	3,609	48	.....	do.....	North German Lloyd.
23 vessels.....	86,524	53,765	1,036	.....	.....	.....

GERMAN VESSEL IN PORT OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.

Elsass.....	6,591	4,154	12½	Pago Pago.....	North German Lloyd.
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GERMAN VESSELS IN PORTS OF THE UNITED STATES—ADDITIONAL.

Dalbek.....	2,723	2,544	Portland, Oreg.	Knohr & Burchard, Newfoundland.
Steinbek.....	2,164	2,062	.....	Winslow, Wash.	Do.
2 vessels.....	4,887	4,606	.....	.....	.....
Previously stated:	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
69 vessels.....	530,835	308,503	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	535,722	313,109	.....	.....	.....

SUMMARY.

		Number of vessels.	Gross tons.	Net tons.
In United States ports.....	.....	71	535,722	313,109
In Philippine ports.....	.....	23	86,524	53,765
In Pacific Island ports.....	.....	1	6,591	4,154
Grand total.....	.....	95	628,837	371,028

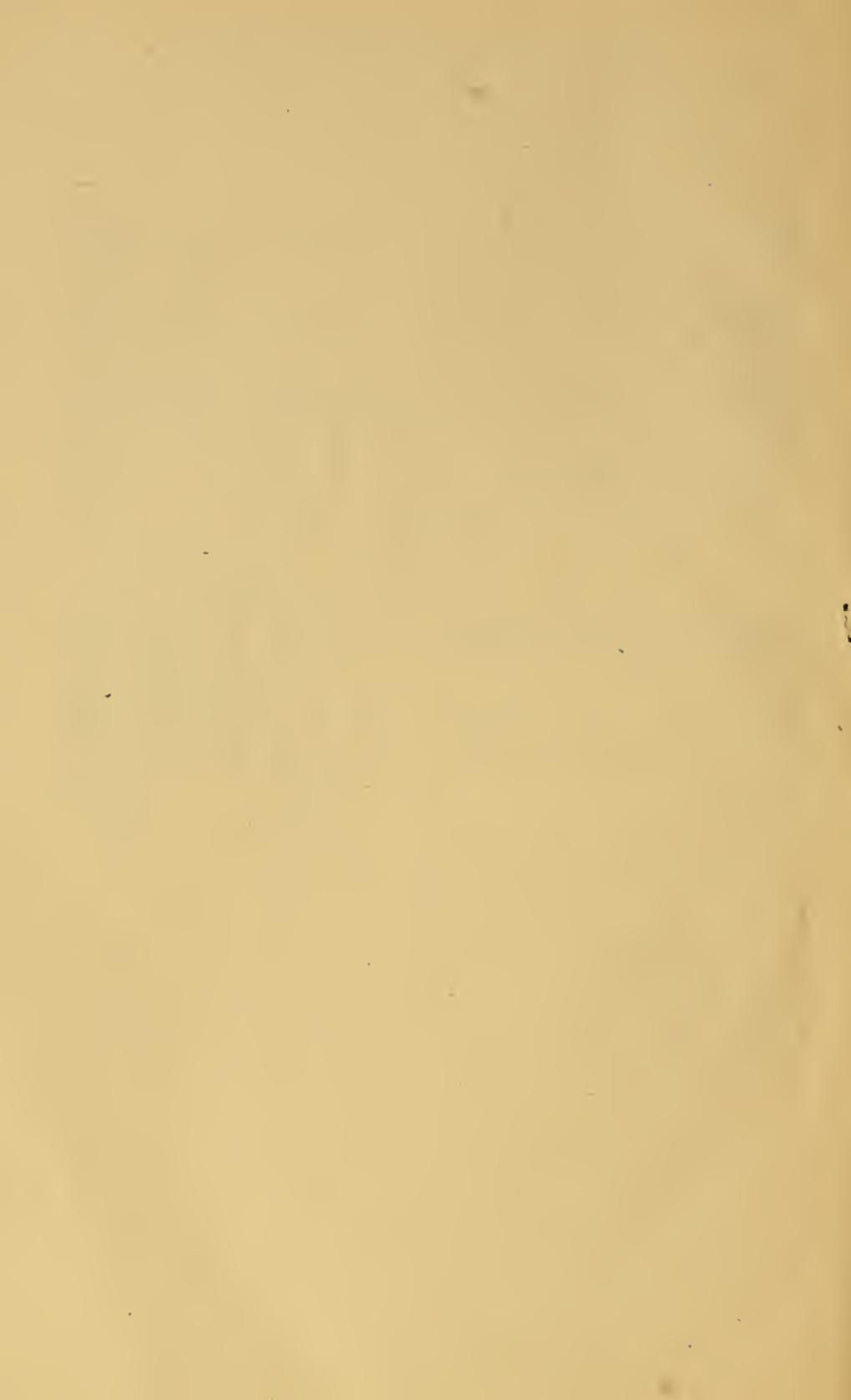
GERMAN VSESELS IN PORTS OF THE UNITED STATES—SECOND ADDITIONAL.

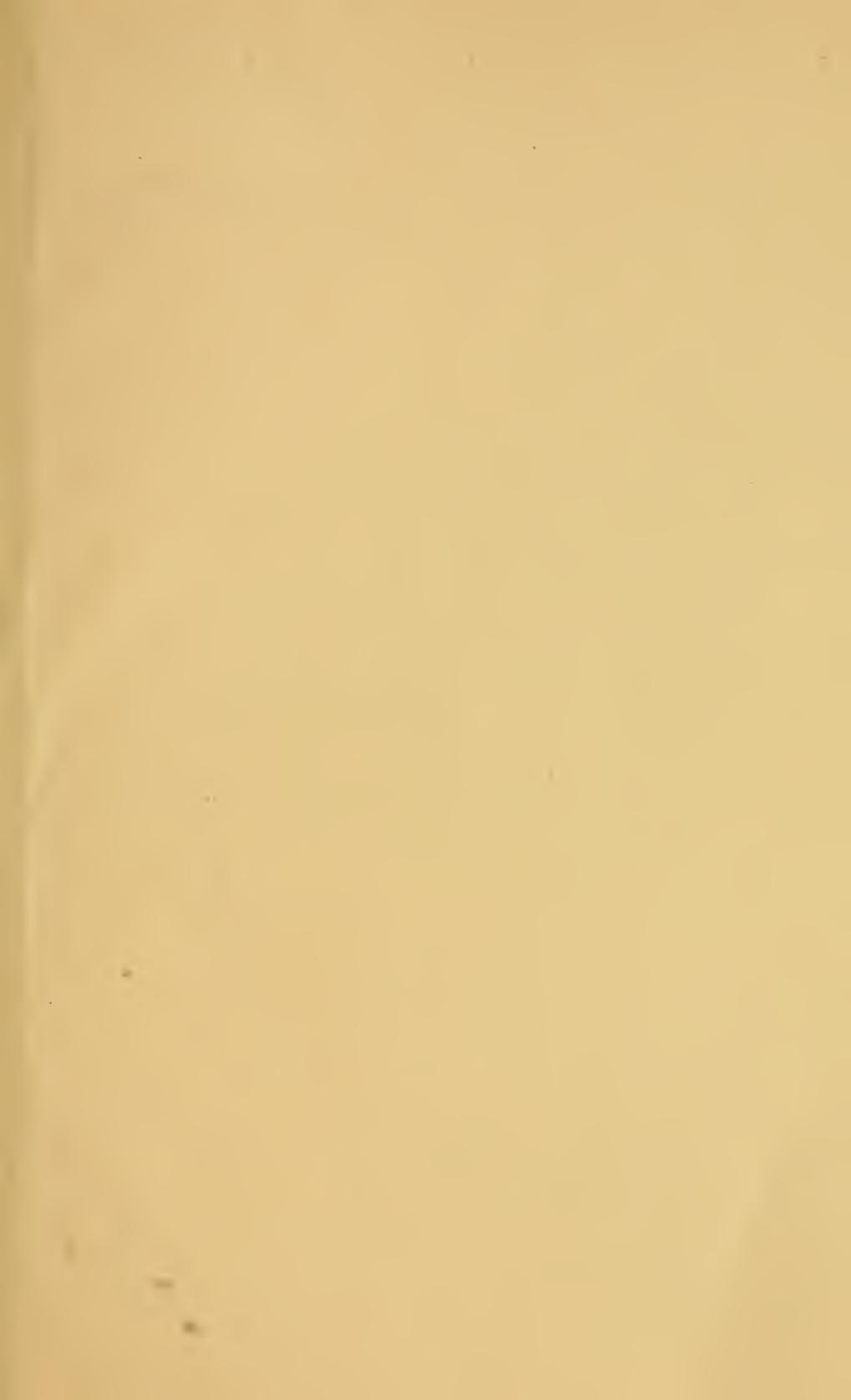
Name.	Gross tons.	Net tons.	Pas-sen-gers.	Crew.	Speed.	At—	Owner.
Liebenfels.....	4,525	2,830	.....	56	Knots.	Charleston, S.C.	Hansa.
Magdeburg.....	4,497	2,876	.....	44	.....	New York, N.Y.	German-Australian S.S. Co.
Nicaria.....	3,974	2,298	.....	40	.....	Southport, N.C.	Hamburg-American Line.
Kiel.....	4,494	2,872	.....	44	.....	do.....	German-Australian S.S. Co.
Indra (schooner).....	1,746	1,643	.....	23	.....	New York, N.Y.	Wachsmuth & Krog-mann.
Matador (bark).....	1,468	1,366	.....	20	.....	do.....	Carl J. Klingenberg & Co.
Arnoldus Vinnen (ship).....	1,859	1,789	.....	26	.....	Astoria, Oreg.	F. A. Vinnen & Co.
Kurt (bark).....	3,109	2,875	.....	34	.....	do.....	G. J. H. Siemers & Co.
Ottawa (bark).....	2,659	2,542	.....	31	.....	San Francisco.....	Rhederei Aktien Ges. von 1896.
Breslau.....	7,524	4,808	609	106	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	New Orleans, La.	North German Lloyd.
Andromeda.....	2,554	1,546	.....	.....	.....	do.....	Argo S. S. Co.
Total.....	38,409	27,445	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

SUMMARY.

	Number of vessels.	Gross tons.	Net tons.
Elsewhere set down, less Prince August Wilhelm.....	94	624,104	368,053
Second addition.....	11	38,409	37,445
.....	105	662,513	395,498
Austrian.....	14	67,817	43,678
German.....	91	594,696	351,820
.....	105	662,513	395,498







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